



## **Chapter 4**

# **CURRENT STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT**

Illinois enjoys a robust interoperable communications climate thanks, in part, to its investment of more than \$27 million in federal homeland security funds to enhance voice/data communication systems within the state since 1999. New technologies and equipment complement the legacy communication systems which provided the foundation for the expansion of interoperability throughout the state. Today, interoperable protocols in Illinois include the use of a variety of shared voice radio channels on low band, VHF, UHF, and 700 and 800 MHz bands while embracing all parts of the emergency responder network.

- The state's low-band system is used by IEMA (channel 45.44000 MHz) and subsidiary support agencies.
- The VHF or high-band channels are primarily used by public safety agencies for daily communications.
  - Fire: Two common statewide channels on the Interagency Fire Emergency Radio Network known as IFERN and IFERN2 (154.30250 MHz and 154.26500 MHz respectively) are used to alert and dispatch mutual aid resources as well as to maintain communications with responding units.
  - Police: The ISPERN channel 155.47500 MHz is found in nearly all police cruisers in the state. This frequency also provides interoperability to federal law enforcement. ISPERN is patched into the STARCOM 21 radio system to permit officers to speak across bands from 700/800 MHz to the ISPERN VHF frequency.
  - Shared: The IREACH channel 155.05500 MHz is found in the majority of both police and fire vehicles in Illinois. The IREACH channel has been set aside by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a means of communication among Illinois public safety agencies when no other direct means of communication is available.

The American Red Cross Mobile Support Teams, along with all branches of the United States Armed Forces, have recently been authorized use of the IREACH channel to facilitate communications between mobile command centers and responding resources within Illinois.

Coordination of responding units on IREACH continues to be commonplace due to the placement of IREACH base stations within every county in Illinois. IREACH is capable of being patched into the STARCOM 21 radio system to permit officers to speak across bands from 700/800 MHz to the IREACH frequency.

- Medical: The MERCI (Medical Emergency Radio Communications of Illinois) channels are found in the ambulance and hospital fleet vehicles throughout the state. These channels operate in the VHF band (155.34000 MHz, 155.16000 MHz, 155.40000 MHz, 155.28000 MHz, and 155.22000 MHz) with voice only and in the UHF band (463.00000/468.00000 MHz) with voice and biomedical telemetry on eight paired channels.

The focus of Illinois' interoperability strategy is to provide equipment to public safety agencies to ensure statewide and regional linkages and to provide a platform for the development of local communications frequencies. One of the core interoperable communications systems developed to support that strategy is STARCOM 21, a statewide 700/800 MHz interoperable trunked radio system linking state government to county and municipal agencies and statewide response teams. This system allows public safety and public service agencies throughout Illinois to effectively and cost-efficiently operate on a common network.

Additionally, Illinois has completed the deployment of regional-based transportable communications trailers equipped with an impressive mobile interoperable suite that ensures communications among public safety agencies at the site of a major event. Known as ITECS (Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System), these ten mobile suites contain two laptop computers for programming the ACU-1000 (a mobile cross radio band interoperability device) and radios; a satellite Internet system which includes an Emergency Management Network (EMnet) terminal; two transportable UHF 450 MHz tactical repeaters, two transportable VHF base stations; a transportable UHF 800 MHz repeater; 24 VHF portable radios with chargers and spare batteries; 24 UHF portable radios with chargers and spare batteries; a multi-line telephone system; a 50-foot communications tower; and a 10,000 watt diesel generator. The trailers housing these items are pulled by state-purchased four-wheel drive pickup trucks equipped with two-way radios, emergency lights, and sirens.

A key to making ITECS operational is the programming of local mutual aid radio channels into the radios carried onboard the trailers. Each participating ITECS jurisdiction has determined the mutual aid channels for each county located in its respective IEMA region. Normal daily operating channels are not programmed for the county in the ITECS suite. Instead, the frequencies used for localized mutual aid support and the recognized interoperability channels (IREACH, ISPERN, IFERN, IFERN2, six fireground channels, ESMARN [Emergency Services Mutual Aid Radio

Network], V-TAC, U-TAC [Ultra High Frequency Tactical Channel], and I-TAC [Interagency Tactical Channel]) are programmed into the radios.

The ITEC trailers are located strategically throughout Illinois based on the designated IEMA regions. Each of the ITECS suites is staffed by three personnel: a Supervisor/Frequency Manager, an Electronics/Computer Technician, and a Mechanical Technician. Each jurisdiction receiving an ITECS suite has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with IEMA which specifies the terms under which the jurisdiction may be requested to respond to a statewide emergency. During a state emergency or disaster, personnel and equipment costs associated with the deployment of an ITECS are reimbursed by IEMA following activation of the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

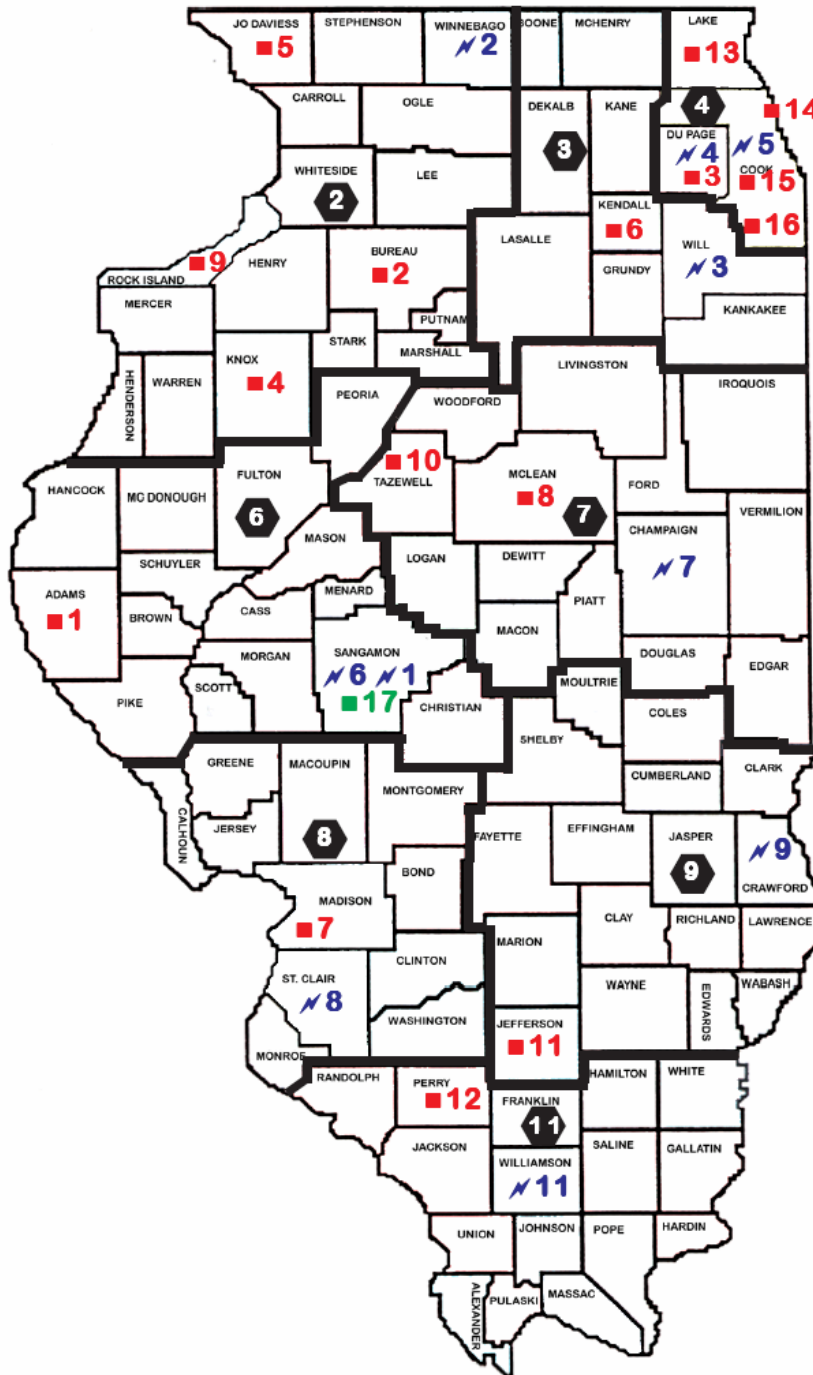
Illinois has also made available 13 mobile Unified Command Post (UCP) vehicles that are used during disasters to facilitate communications and coordination among local, state, and federal on-scene response organizations compliant with NIMS. The 40-foot long UCP vehicles include spaces for 12 decision-makers plus a communications suite with room for four operators. The vehicles are equipped with satellite, cellular, and land line communications capabilities along with a generator which enables the setup of the post virtually anywhere.

The placement of these vehicles strategically around the state affords Illinois the capability to rapidly set up unified command posts with communications capabilities anywhere in the state. Funds for the vehicles and other equipment approved under the grants came from the state's federal homeland security funding and were administered through the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) which worked with the ITTF to place the units in the most optimal locations.

Illinois' interoperable communications systems are broad enough to ensure public safety agencies are capable of communicating statewide, regionally, and locally during all levels of incidents. The pre-positioning of the ITECS and UCPs ensure these mobile caches of radios - specifically intended for interoperability - are readily available for immediate deployment in emergency situations or major disasters.

The map on the following page illustrates the strategic placement of these communications resources.

# **Illinois Terrorism Task Force** **Predeployed locations of** **Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System (ITECS)** **and Unified Command Post (UCP) Vehicles**



## **KEY**

- 2** IEMA Region
- ITECS**
- 1** IEMA
- 2** Winnebago County
- 3** Will County
- 4** DuPage County
- 5** Chicago
- 6** Springfield
- 7** Champaign
- 8** St. Clair County
- 9** Crawford County
- 11** Williamson County

- UCP Vehicles**
- 1** Adams County
- 2** Bureau County
- 3** DuPage County
- 4** Galesburg
- 5** JoDaviess County
- 6** Kendall County
- 7** Madison County
- 8** McLean County
- 9** Rock Island County
- 10** Tazewell County
- 11** Jefferson County
- 12** DuQuoin
- 13** Wauconda
- 14** MABAS Div. 3
- 15** Oak Park
- 16** Tinley Park
- 17** IEMA - UAC

## **COMMUNICATIONS VANS\***

- IEMA Springfield (2)
- ISP Springfield
- OSFM Springfield
- IDOT Ottawa
- IDOT Chicago (2)
- IDOC Lincoln
- CST/ING Peoria (2)
- CST/ING Bartonville

\* These resources are not shown on the map.

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Underscoring the importance of the 700 MHz regional planning initiative, Illinois' FCC Region 13 and Region 54 700 MHz plans were completed and forwarded to all adjacent states for reviews and approvals in November 2006. All states concurred with Illinois' 700 MHz plans, and both plans were subsequently submitted to the FCC for approval in December 2008.

The FCC has mandated that legacy VHF and UHF public safety radio systems operating between 150 and 512 MHz migrate to narrow-band emissions (12.5 kHz) by January 1, 2013. This change will impact most state and local agencies throughout Illinois. Statewide organizations including the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), ISPERN, IREACH, and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have begun the planning process for migration of legacy 25 KHz systems to the 12.5 KHz narrow-band emission requirements.

While Illinois has made great strides in its quest for interoperability, more remains to be accomplished before Illinoisans can be assured their first responders will always be able to communicate, regardless of the event, circumstances, or location. A cadre of disparate voice radio systems operating in all public safety frequency bands (low band, VHF, UHF, 700/800 MHz) is found in Illinois. These disparate systems operate across all disciplines. In an effort to meet public safety response operational needs, Illinois' SCIP sets out a course for those agencies not currently integrated with the state interoperable voice radio platform to achieve communications interoperability. Illinois' officials are wholly committed to achieving that goal by the 2016 target date.

#### 4.1 Governance Structure

The State Police Radio Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 20, Part 2615, commonly cited as 20 ILCS 2615) was amended in 2006 to include Public Act 94-1005. This act, which became effective on July 3, 2006, established the Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee.

The SIEC has been gubernatorially-designated as the governance body for Illinois' SCIP. The SIEC provides oversight for the administration of the plan and guides the rollout of the initiatives and strategies formulated to enhance Illinois' interoperability community.

The membership of the SIEC includes representatives from federal, state, and local public safety agencies with statutory and non-statutory responsibilities for interoperability in Illinois. Organizations that are members of the SIEC include the STARCOM 21 Oversight Committee and representatives with leadership positions for each of the data and voice communication systems (see Section 4.2 – Technology) that comprise the Illinois interoperability strategy. The SIEC membership also includes representatives from the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System (IEMMAS), ILEAS, MABAS, and the Public Health Mutual Aid System (IPHMAS). The liaisons for these mutual aid systems are responsible for being conduits for the representation of their respective organizations and for the

communication of interoperability issues on behalf of their memberships. The Chicago/Cook County UASI is a voting member of the SIEC, along with the St. Louis Urban Area group.

In lieu of a charter, the SIEC has established a set of bylaws which governs its operations. These bylaws establish the group's name and purpose and sets out the rules governing membership, officers, committees, meeting schedule, annual report, parliamentary authority, and amendments. In the future, the SIEC will form subcommittees to review SOPs, develop interoperability standards, and review and propose legislation that impacts interoperability and the Illinois interoperability platform.

The group has established the following goals consistent with the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP):

1. Develop a singular statewide vision for interoperable public safety communications.
2. Develop effective standards for public safety communications.
3. Promote cooperation among the various public safety entities, whether federal, state, or local in nature.
4. Identify priorities for statewide radio interoperability needs and assist in the development of policies, plans, standards, guidelines, and projects that will assist in addressing those needs and priorities.
5. Ensure the accomplishment of all appropriate activities to secure all available spectrums to accommodate the needs of all public safety users in Illinois.
6. Promote and facilitate cooperative and contractual arrangements to develop a statewide interoperable radio communications system infrastructure.
7. Research the practices of other states.
8. Provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, as appropriate, concerning issues relating to statewide interoperable radio communications for public safety agencies within Illinois.

Anyone wishing to contact the SIEC may do so electronically at [iema.scip@illinois.gov](mailto:iema.scip@illinois.gov).

#### 4.2 Technology

Illinois' interoperability network is predicated on a series of independent, yet interrelated, radio and data communications systems which have a demonstrable record of functionality and reliability.

The following is a comprehensive overview of the systems that comprise the Illinois interoperability platform.

### **Data Communications**

#### ***Emergency Management Network (EMnet)***

The Emergency Management Network (EMnet) is the primary secure data system designed to allow the transmission of emergency and non-emergency messages generated at various levels of government to be transmitted rapidly throughout the state. EMnet messages are transmitted based on a priority action level described as follows:

| MESSAGE PRIORITY | AUTHORIZED ORIGINATORS   | LEVEL OF URGENCY            |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Municipal</li><li>• Private</li><li>• County</li><li>• State</li><li>• Federal Regional</li><li>• Federal Nationwide</li></ul> | Routine/<br>Administrative  |
| 2                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County</li><li>• State</li><li>• Federal Regional</li><li>• Federal Nationwide</li></ul>                                       | Urgent                      |
| 3                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State</li><li>• Federal Regional</li><li>• Federal Nationwide</li></ul>  | Emergency                   |
| 4                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal Regional</li><li>• Federal Nationwide</li></ul>  | Major Disaster              |
| 5                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal Nationwide</li></ul>   | National Security Emergency |
| 6                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presidential</li></ul>   | National Security Emergency |

#### ***Groove Virtual Office***

Groove Virtual Office, commonly known simply as Groove, is an Internet-based software program which features a decentralized architecture that promotes cross-agency information management and collaboration. The program is applicable to all phases of emergency management and allows local and state entities to interact through shared workspaces that serve as quasi-Intranet sites.

#### ***Health Alert Network (HAN)***

Administered by the Illinois Department of Health, the Health Alert Network, or HAN, is used to provide rapid and effective data and voice communication to local health departments, hospitals, and other public health partners. The alert/notification system uses multi-cast capability to rapidly distribute information to targeted recipients via any combination of e-mail, short message text-to-cellular telephones and text pagers, facsimile transmissions, and conventional pagers and telephones.

### ***Illinois Emergency Communications Network (IECN)***

The Illinois Emergency Communications Network (IECN) is a virtual command center concept that can be activated by any participating utility company or by IEMA in response to a potential or actual emergency. Once activated, industry participants can directly engage in the exchange of information with each other from remote locations while having a direct link to the state EOC.

### ***Illinois Wireless Information Network Services (IWIN)***

The Illinois Wireless Information Network Services (IWIN) communications tool is a wireless wide area data network using cellular digital packet data technology (CDPD) (in partnership with the State of Illinois, Verizon Wireless, and Motorola) to provide real-time, full duplex mobile connectivity to its users who are members of state and local government and law enforcement communities. Police officers are equipped with mobile units in their squad cars that allow instantaneous access to a variety of mission-critical database applications from virtually anywhere in Illinois. The Illinois law enforcement community utilizes IWIN to gain access to the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS), National Crime Information Center (NCIC), National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), and Secretary of State (SOS) databases. The network also provides users with car-to-car messaging, bar code and image capture and transfer, global positioning system mapping, and in-car paging capabilities. Agencies can also connect their users to their computer aided dispatch and record management systems. IWIN is the largest statewide, public safety mobile data network in the nation.

### ***Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS)***

The Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS) is a statewide telecommunications system maintained by the Illinois State Police (ISP) designed to provide the Illinois criminal justice community with access to computerized, justice-related information at both the state and national level. LEADS also provides an administrative messaging component that allows law enforcement agencies within the State of Illinois to exchange secure messages. Approximately 800 criminal justice agencies have direct access to LEADS statewide. While LEADS access is granted only to the Illinois criminal justice community, LEADS information is also exchanged with the federal government law enforcement agencies.

### ***National Warning System (NAWAS)***

The National Warning System (NAWAS), funded by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), is a comprehensive party line network of telephone circuits connecting state and federal warning points throughout the United States. Although NAWAS is a national system, the day-to-day operation is under the control of individual states, each of which has its own plan for the use of NAWAS during weather emergencies.

NAWAS can be used for emergencies related to peacetime nuclear accidents, railroad disasters, downed aircraft, and warning of potential natural disasters (e.g. hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, and tornadoes).



### **Voice Communications**

Illinois' interoperability platform is architecture-based on the state-of-the-art public safety communications program known as the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Project 25. When agencies join the Illinois interoperability platform, they adopt the latest interoperable platform narrowband digital trunking radio system technology.

### ***Emergency Services Mutual Aid Radio Network (ESMARN)***

The Emergency Services Mutual Aid Radio Network (ESMARN) is utilized throughout the state as an emergency management mutual aid channel. ESMARN is widely used in Illinois at the local emergency management agency level, providing a communications path for dispatch and notification as well as interoperability.

In Illinois and its adjoining states, the frequency known as ESMARN is used for local events where mutual aid and/or event notification is required. The use of ESMARN at the local level is both mobile-to-mobile and base-to-mobile communications. ESMARN is used by many local departments for paging of emergency management personnel as well as local services such as police, fire, and medical services. ESMARN operates on a frequency of 155.02500 MHz at carrier squelch.

### ***Fireground Channels***

Illinois' fire service, through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), has secured eight VHF channels for statewide interoperable communications through a master FCC authorization. Two of the channels, identified through common nomenclature as IFERN and IFERN2, are designated for high power base and mobile operation as dispatch and response channels. Six of the frequencies, identified as fireground channels, are designated as low-power tactical channels for command and control at incident scenes. These frequencies are utilized for fire, emergency medical, hazardous materials, and technical rescue incidents.

While MABAS has secured these fireground frequencies for statewide use by multiple responding fire departments to major incidents, portions of the MABAS frequency use plan are utilized by fire departments throughout the state daily on routine incidents. The frequency use plan provides an Incident Commander with a simple reference guide to quickly establish a communications plan even before the formal planning process develops an ICS-205 form. Utilization of these frequencies and plan on a daily basis provides fire service personnel an exceptional level of familiarity and comfort with the interoperability plan when a major incident occurs.

### ***High Frequency Network (HF-Net)***

The High Frequency Network (HF-Net) is designed as a backup long-range communications system linking critical state communications systems. This system provides a redundant communications platform in the event of a failure of other radio and telephone systems. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) serves as the network control point and maintains the network of equipment installed throughout the state. HF-Net is only used to pass essential emergency traffic and is

designed for normal, day-to-day agency communications. Use of the system is based on IEMA's "Operation Secure Plan" and utilizes frequencies assigned under that program.

### ***Illinois Emergency Management Agency/Command and Control Network (I-NET)***

I-NET is utilized throughout the state as a direction and control frequency for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. This system serves as a voice communications system for IEMA staff while also serving as the backup command and communications system between the SEOC and all counties within the state. I-NET is a statewide low-band radio system which provides base-to-mobile and mobile-to-mobile coverage.

### ***Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel (IREACH)***

Through the use of the Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel (IREACH), any public safety employee has the ability to talk to any other public safety employee (cross discipline) via radio if the radio traffic relates to his/her official duties and the protection of life and/or property. For example, through the use of IREACH, a fire fighter can have direct radio contact with an emergency medical technician in an ambulance or a police officer has the ability to talk directly to an emergency medical agency/emergency services disaster agency official at a disaster site.

IREACH is a high band radio system providing statewide base-to-mobile and mobile-to-mobile coverage. There are 121 IREACH base stations throughout Illinois, with IREACH base stations now existing in every county within the state. The IREACH Governing Board has allowed additional IREACH base stations in northeastern Illinois. Every Illinois State Police district monitors this channel, along with public safety answering points such as sheriffs' departments and local 911 centers.

### ***Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network (ISPERN)***

The Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network (ISPERN) is the patriarch of interoperability radio systems in the state. With operations dating back to the mid-1960s, ISPERN was the first statewide emergency radio network in the nation. Today it serves as the statewide law enforcement emergency mutual aid channel used to provide radio contact among mobile units of multiple law enforcement agencies, allowing for coordinated operations, wide-area dissemination of criminal or traffic offenses information, and enhancement of officer safety. ISPERN is part of the National Law Enforcement Emergency Frequency (NLEEF) program.

ISPERN control points (base stations) in Illinois are limited to Illinois State Police district radio stations, the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department, the Lake County Sheriff's Department, and the Chicago Police Department. All control point stations render communications services to itinerant law enforcement personnel. ISPERN's Governing Board implements rules, policies, and procedures and consists of 13 members representing local police departments, sheriffs' offices, APCO, the

Chicago Police Department, the Cook County Sheriff's Department, and the Illinois State Police.

### ***Interagency Fire Emergency Radio Network (IFERN)***

The Interagency Fire Emergency Radio Network (IFERN) is utilized throughout the state - as well as in adjoining states - as the primary means of alerting fire mutual aid assets as part of MABAS. IFERN is also used to track those assets while enroute to a local or regional event. Fire apparatus enroute to the incident is directed via the IFERN frequency until arrival at a staging area when the switch occurs to a fireground or tactical frequency.

### ***Medical Emergency Radio Control of Illinois (MERC I)***

The MERCI (Medical Emergency Radio Communications of Illinois) channels are utilized by ambulance providers and hospital emergency departments throughout the state. MERCI allows ambulances to communicate with hospital emergency departments and also facilitates communications between hospitals on a point-to-point basis. The Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT) also uses MERCI channels to communicate with hospitals in a stricken area. MERCI operates in the VHF and UHF bands and is used by approximately 2,000 Illinois emergency medical services (EMS) providers. The following table reflects the channels utilized in the MERCI network:

| Common Name             | Mobile Transmit Frequency | Mobile Receive Frequency | W/N | CTCSS              |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| MERC I 160 <sup>1</sup> | 155.16000                 | 155.16000                | W   | Varies             |
| MERC I 220 <sup>2</sup> | 155.22000                 | 155.22000                | W   | Varies             |
| MERC I 280 <sup>3</sup> | 155.28000                 | 155.28000                | W   | D156               |
| MERC I 340              | 155.34000                 | 155.34000                | W   | 210.7 <sup>4</sup> |
| MERC I 400 <sup>5</sup> | 155.40000                 | 155.40000                | W   | Varies             |
| MED 1                   | 468.00000                 | 463.00000                | W   | Varies             |
| MED 2                   | 468.02500                 | 463.02500                | W   | Varies             |
| MED 3                   | 468.05000                 | 463.05000                | W   | Varies             |
| MED 4                   | 468.07500                 | 463.07500                | W   | Varies             |
| MED 5                   | 468.10000                 | 463.10000                | W   | Varies             |
| MED 6                   | 468.12500                 | 463.12500                | W   | Varies             |
| MED 7                   | 468.15000                 | 463.15000                | W   | Varies             |
| MED 8                   | 468.17500                 | 463.17500                | W   | 210.7              |

Hospitals are assigned specific Digital Tone Coded Squelch System (DTCSS) codes based on EMS systems, a practice which permits emergency room personnel to listen only to communications within their EMS system. IDPH rules require that all ambulances have the ability to communicate on MERCI 340 with the statewide

<sup>1</sup> MERCI 160 use is limited to Edwardsville/Collinsville/Belleville area.

<sup>2</sup> MERCI 220 is designated as a dispatch channel.

<sup>3</sup> MERCI 280 is designated for hospital point-to-point and disaster-related communications.

<sup>4</sup> DTCSS Code 210.7 Hz is used for statewide communications during disaster or mutual aid incidents.

<sup>5</sup> MERCI 400 use is limited to northeastern Illinois, generally north of North Avenue in the Chicago metro area.

DTCSS code of 210.7. These rules also require hospitals to install secondary receivers that continuously monitor MERCI 340 on the statewide DTCSS code for disaster and mutual aid operations. Hospitals using the UHF MED channels are also required to monitor MED 8 with a DTCSS code of 210.7.

The Illinois Administrative Code (77 IAC 515.400) requires all ambulance services to coordinate their communication with the IDPH and have ambulance-to-hospital communications on frequencies, channels, and tones assigned by the IDPH. All hospitals participating in an EMS plan or receiving emergency patients by ambulance must have two-way communications with ambulances and other hospitals as assigned by the IDPH.

***National Interoperable Pool (NIP) (V-TAC, U-TAC, I-TAC)***

The FCC has designated multi-discipline interoperability channels in the UHF and VHF public safety radio bands. The term “multi-discipline” infers these channels are to be accessible for all public safety users to communicate to others within their discipline (police-to-police, fire-to-fire, etc.) as well as cross-discipline communications (police-to-fire, fire-to-local government, etc.) among all public safety users. These frequencies have been allocated in the following manner:

- V-TAC – VHF Tactical Channels
- U-TAC – UHF Tactical Channels
- I-TAC – Interagency (UHF/800 MHz) Tactical Channels

Based on FCC regulations, local governmental agencies that have a valid Part 90 license may install NIP frequencies (V-TAC, U-TAC, and I-TAC) in existing radios. When responding to an emergency where the need for interoperability is demonstrated, responders can use one or more of the available frequencies as warranted by the incident. The responsibility for management and assignment of available frequencies rests with the Communications Unit Leader.

The chart on the following page highlights Illinois’ UHF 450 MHz interoperable radio configurations.

## UHF 450 MHz INTEROPERABLE RADIO CONFIGURATION

| Name     | Mobile Transmit Frequency | Mobile Receive Frequency | W/N | CTCSS | Function                   |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----|-------|----------------------------|
| V-CALL10 | 155.75250                 | 155.75250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Calling  |
| V-TAC11  | 151.13750                 | 151.13750                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| V-TAC12  | 154.45250                 | 154.45250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| V-TAC13  | 158.73750                 | 158.73750                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| V-TAC14  | 159.47250                 | 159.47250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| U-CALL40 | 458.21250                 | 453.21250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Calling  |
| U-TAC41  | 458.46250                 | 453.46250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| U-TAC42  | 458.71250                 | 453.71250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| U-TAC43  | 458.86250                 | 453.86250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| I-CALL   | 821.01250                 | 866.01250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Calling  |
| I-TAC1   | 821.51250                 | 866.51250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| I-TAC2   | 822.01250                 | 867.01250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| I-TAC3   | 822.51250                 | 867.51250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| I-TAC4   | 823.01250                 | 867.01250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| 8CALL90* | 806.01250                 | 851.01250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Calling  |
| 8TAC91*  | 806.51250                 | 851.01250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| 8TAC92*  | 807.01250                 | 852.01250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| 8TAC93*  | 807.51250                 | 852.51250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |
| 8TAC94*  | 808.01250                 | 853.01250                | N   | 156.7 | Command & Control Tactical |

\*These frequencies will be available once Nextel related re-banding has been completed.

### **STARCOM 21**

The state's newest radio network began statewide operation in September 2007. The STARCOM 21 network is a P25 700/800 MHz trunked voice radio initially designed to meet the operational specifications of the ISP. As the state's interoperable platform, STARCOM 21 also provides radio communications and interoperability to federal, state, and local public safety agencies. ISPERN radio transmissions are cross patched creating interoperability on STARCOM 21. Other VHF frequencies may be bridged into the network in the future. STARCOM 21 provides radio coverage in more than 98 percent of the geographic area of Illinois with a failure rate of five percent or less. The legislation which established the SIEC also established a STARCOM 21 Oversight Committee, with voting membership, to reflect the user base of the system. The Oversight Committee is establishing guidelines and practices for use of the system so that one group of users will not negatively affect another group operating on the system. Each individual agency using STARCOM 21 agrees to abide by the guidance given by the STARCOM 21 Oversight Committee.

The chart on page 4:14 illustrates the State of Illinois Interoperability Template.

## STATE OF ILLINOIS INTEROPERABILITY TEMPLATE

| Zone    | AA       | AB      | AC      | AD      | AE      | AF       | AG       |
|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Mode 1  | IESMA    | RGN 6A  | 7TAC58D | 7TAC74D | 7CAL59D | I-CALL D | 8CAL-90D |
| Mode 2  | ILEAS    | RGN 6B  | 7TAC62D | 7TAC78D | 7TAC63D | I-TAC 1D | 8TAC-91D |
| Mode 3  | MABAS    | RGN 7A  | 7TAC66D | 7TAC82D | 7TAC67D | I-TAC 2D | 8TAC-92D |
| Mode 4  | PUB HLTH | RGN 7B  | 7TAC68D | 7LAW84D | 7TAC73D | I-TAC 3D | 8TAC-93D |
| Mode 5  | INCDNT 1 | RGN 8A  | 7TAC69D | 7LAW85D | 7CAL75D | I-TAC 4D | 8TAC-94D |
| Mode 6  | INCDNT 2 | RGN 8B  | 7TAC70D | 7TAC86D | 7TAC79D | I-CALL R | 8CAL-90R |
| Mode 7  | INCDNT 3 | RGN 9A  | 7MOB72D | 7MOB88D | 7TAC83D | I-TAC 1R | 8TAC-91R |
| Mode 8  | ZONE 1   | RGN 9B  | 7TAC58  | 7TAC74  | 7TAC89D | I-TAC 2R | 8TAC-92R |
| Mode 9  | ZONE 2   | RGN 11A | 7TAC62  | 7TAC78  | 7CAL59  | I-TAC 3R | 8TAC-93R |
| Mode 10 | ZONE 3   | RGN 11B | 7TAC66  | 7TAC82  | 7TAC63  | I-TAC 4R | 8TAC-94R |
| Mode 11 | RGN 2A   |         | 7LAW68  | 7LAW84  | 7TAC67  |          |          |
| Mode 12 | RGN 2B   |         | 7LAW69  | 7LAW85  | 7TAC73  |          |          |
| Mode 13 | RGN 3A   |         | 7TAC70  | 7TAC86  | 7CAL75  |          |          |
| Mode 14 | RGN 3B   |         | 7MOB72  | 7MOB88  | 7TAC79  |          |          |
| Mode 15 | RGN 4A   |         |         |         | 7TAC83  |          |          |
| Mode 16 | RGN 4B   |         |         |         | 7TAC89  |          |          |

The STARCOM 21 Oversight Committee, statutorily chaired by the Illinois State Police, was established by state legislation in 2006. The Oversight Committee was called to order after the final system acceptance of STARCOM 21 in 2008. The Oversight Committee is comprised of various public safety disciplines who are representative of users of the STARCOM 21 network. The Oversight Committee is responsible for approving requests for use of the system based on the potential impact on current STARCOM 21 users and must, as well, review all requests for patches, bridges, or gateways to the system. The Committee also reviews requests for adding additional users and directs the vendor in the appropriate methodologies to be used in addressing requests from potential users.

The chart on the next four pages details the previously-described interoperable frequencies used by Illinois' emergency response community.

## INTEROPERABLE FREQUENCY LISTING

| NAME        | MOBILE<br>TRANSMIT<br>FREQUENCY | MOBILE<br>RECEIVE<br>FREQUENCY | W/<br>N | CTCSS | FUNCTION   |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------|--|
| HF-NET      | Various                         | Various                        | W       | CS    | Long Range Emergency Management                    |
| IEMA I-NET  | 45.44000                        | 45.44000                       | W       | 103.5 | IEMA Command & Control                             |
| IEMA WX-NET | 45.36000                        | 45.36000                       | W       | 103.5 | IEMA/NWS Weather Spotter Network                   |
| LESERN      | 45.56000                        | 45.56000                       | W       | 103.5 | Local Emergency Management Command & Control       |
| ESMARN      | 155.02500                       | 155.02500                      | W       | CS    | Emergency Management Mutual Aid & Coordination     |
| IREACH      | 155.05500                       | 155.05500                      | W       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary Coordination, Command & Control |
| V-CALL10    | 155.75250                       | 155.75250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Calling       |
| V-TAC11     | 151.13750                       | 151.13750                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Tactical      |
| V-TAC12     | 154.45250                       | 154.45250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Tactical      |
| V-TAC13     | 158.73750                       | 158.73750                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Tactical      |
| V-TAC14     | 159.47250                       | 159.47250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Tactical      |
| U-CALL40    | 458.21250                       | 453.21250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Calling       |
| U-TAC41     | 458.46250                       | 453.46250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Tactical      |
| U-TAC42     | 458.71250                       | 453.71250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Tactical      |
| U-TAC43     | 458.86250                       | 453.86250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Tactical      |
| I-CALL      | 821.01250                       | 866.01250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Calling       |
| I-TAC1      | 821.51250                       | 866.51250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Tactical      |
| I-TAC2      | 822.01250                       | 867.01250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary Command & Control Tactical      |

| NAME                | MOBILE<br>TRANSMIT<br>FREQUENCY | MOBILE<br>RECEIVE<br>FREQUENCY | W/<br>N | CTCSS | FUNCTION  |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------|---|
| I-TAC3              | 822.51250                       | 867.51250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical     |
| I-TAC4              | 823.01250                       | 867.01250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical     |
| FUTURE<br>8CALL90   | 806.01250                       | 851.01250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Calling      |
| FUTURE 8TAC91       | 806.51250                       | 851.01250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical     |
| FUTURE 8TAC92       | 807.01250                       | 852.01250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical     |
| FUTURE 8TAC93       | 807.51250                       | 852.51250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical     |
| FUTURE 8TAC94       | 808.01250                       | 853.01250                      | N       | 156.7 | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical     |
| IFERN               | 154.26500                       | 154.26500                      | W       | 210.7 | Fire/EMS Mutual Aid<br>Dispatch, Command &<br>Control   |
| IFERN 2             | 154.30250                       | 154.30250                      | N       | 67.0  | Fire/EMS Alternate Mutual<br>Alt Command & Control      |
| FIREGROUND<br>RED   | 153.83000                       | 153.83000                      | W       | 69.3  | Fire/EMS Low Power<br>Tactical                          |
| FIREGROUND<br>GOLD  | 153.83750                       | 153.83750                      | N       | 91.5  | Fire/EMS Low Power<br>Tactical                          |
| FIREGROUND<br>BLACK | 154.27250                       | 154.27250                      | N       | 94.8  | Fire/EMS Low Power<br>Tactical                          |
| FIREGROUND<br>WHITE | 154.28000                       | 154.28000                      | W       | 84.4  | Fire/EMS Low Power<br>Tactical                          |
| FIREGROUND<br>GRAY  | 154.28750                       | 154.28750                      | N       | 136.5 | Fire/EMS Low Power<br>Tactical                          |
| FIREGROUND<br>BLUE  | 154.29500                       | 154.29500                      | W       | 85.4  | Fire/EMS Low Power<br>Tactical                          |
| LF-2                | 42.50000                        | 42.50000                       | W       | CS    | State Police Low-Band<br>Statewide Command &<br>Control |
| HF-4                | 155.46000                       | 155.46000                      | W       | CS    | State Police Hi-Band<br>Statewide Command &<br>Control  |
| ISPERN              | 155.47500                       | 155.47500                      | W       | CS    | Law Enforcement Mutual<br>Aid Command & Control         |
| POINT-TO-<br>POINT  | 155.37000                       | 155.37000                      | W       | CS    | Law Enforcement Dispatch<br>Command & Control           |
| MERCI 280           | 155.28000                       | 155.28000                      | W       | D156  | EMS Inter-Hospital<br>Command & Control                 |



| NAME      | MOBILE<br>TRANSMIT<br>FREQUENCY | MOBILE<br>RECEIVE<br>FREQUENCY | W/<br>N | CTCSS | FUNCTION  |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------|---|
| MERCI 340 | 155.34000                       | 155.34000                      | W       | 210.7 | EMS Ambulance to<br>Hospital Statewide<br>Medical Control |
| MED 8     | 468.17500                       | 463.17500                      | W       | 210.7 | EMS Ambulance to<br>Hospital Statewide<br>Medical Control |
| 7TAC58*   | 794.14375                       | 764.14375                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical       |
| 7TAC62*   | 794.64375                       | 764.64375                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical       |
| 7TAC66*   | 794.14375                       | 764.14375                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical       |
| 7LAW68*   | 795.39375                       | 765.39375                      | N       | CS    | Law Enforcement<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical          |
| 7LAW69*   | 795.49375                       | 765.49375                      | N       | CS    | Law Enforcement<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical          |
| 7TAC70*   | 795.64375                       | 765.64375                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical       |
| 7MOB72*   | 795.89375                       | 765.89375                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary Mobile<br>Repeater                     |
| 7TAC74*   | 804.10625                       | 774.10625                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical       |
| 7TAC78*   | 804.60625                       | 774.60625                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical       |
| 7TAC82*   | 805.10625                       | 775.10625                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical       |
| 7LAW84*   | 805.00625                       | 775.00625                      | N       | CS    | Law Enforcement<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical          |
| 7LAW85*   | 805.35625                       | 775.35625                      | N       | CS    | Law Enforcement<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical          |
| 7TAC86*   | 805.69625                       | 775.69625                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical       |
| 7MOB88*   | 805.50625                       | 775.50625                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary Mobile<br>Repeater                     |
| 7CAL59*   | 794.24375                       | 764.24375                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Calling        |
| 7TAC63*   | 794.73750                       | 764.73750                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical       |

| NAME    | MOBILE<br>TRANSMIT<br>FREQUENCY | MOBILE<br>RECEIVE<br>FREQUENCY | W/<br>N | CTCSS | FUNCTION  |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------|---|
| 7TAC67* | 795.24375                       | 765.24375                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical |
| 7TAC73* | 795.99375                       | 765.99375                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical |
| 7CAL75* | 804.25625                       | 774.25625                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Calling  |
| 7TAC79* | 804.75625                       | 774.75625                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical |
| 7TAC83* | 805.35625                       | 775.25625                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical |
| 7TAC89* | 805.85625                       | 775.85625                      | N       | CS    | Inter-Disciplinary<br>Command & Control<br>Tactical |

### ***Communications Assets and Mapping (CASM)***

An assessment of Illinois' first responder communications assets is being completed using the Communications Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) tool provided by the Department of Homeland Security's ICTAP (Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program).

Illinois' CASM initiative is being directed by the state's Interoperability Coordinator who was granted "administrative manager" authorization by ICTAP in July 2007. Through CASM, Illinois is developing an online inventory database and visual display that will provide information on communications equipment and identify existing interoperable pathways and gaps among local, state, and federal first responders. Illinois' information will contribute to CASM's master database of communications assets information, i.e., elements such as agencies, radio systems, towers, gateways, dispatches, and other components. This database information of radio assets is key to the successful mitigation of any interoperability conflicts by radio users and serves as the basic information for Communications Unit Leaders (COML) at multi-agency events. Through CASM, there will be a smooth transition of radio use or assignments from a small event to a large event. Although Illinois' information is maintained within CASM, access to Illinois' information is secure. Illinois is responsible for its own data and is the only authority for sharing that data.

The first phase of Illinois' CASM survey will focus on input by the nine designated MSAs located within the state (see Section 2.1.3 for a list of those areas). Upon the completion of the statewide CASM survey, the SIEC will assess the strengths and weaknesses discovered via the survey and, working with the ITTF Communications Committee, develop and/or revise goals, objectives, and strategic initiatives to address areas of imminent and long-term needs. The revised goals, objectives, and strategic initiatives will be incorporated into Illinois' SCIP during its annual review.

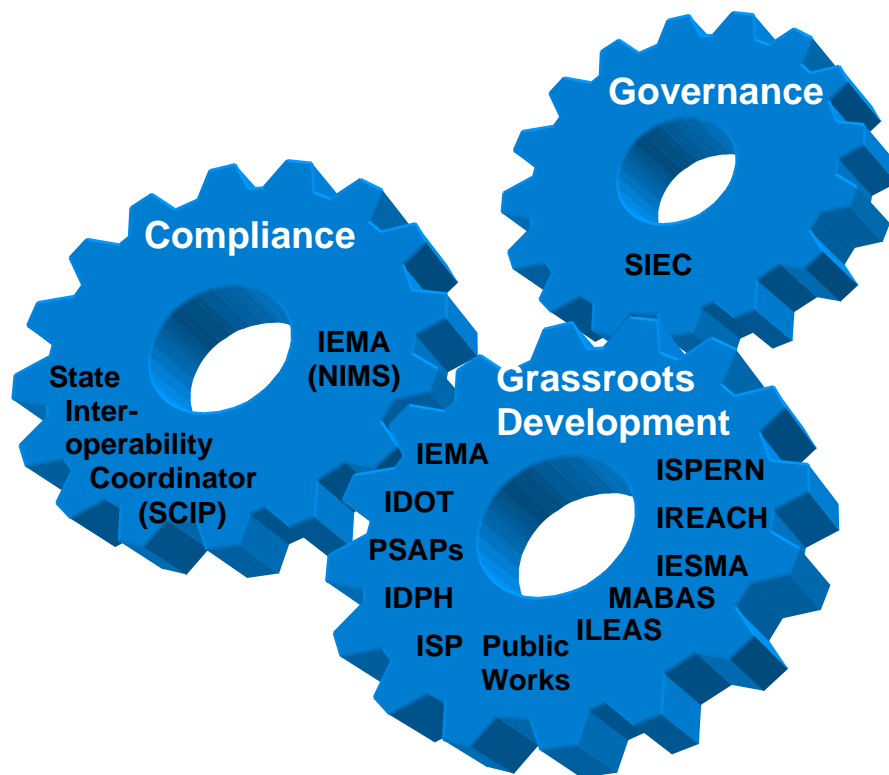
### 4.3 Standard Operating Procedures

Recognizing that standard operating procedures (SOPs) are the written instructions that organizations and individuals must follow to ensure standardization of activities and/or procedures (such as accessing interoperability channels), the State of Illinois has charged its SIEC with the responsibility to ensure all aspects of governance are successful and representative of all levels and disciplines of users. The process outlined in this plan to develop, manage, maintain, update, and communicate SOPs ensures a standardized procedure for public safety agencies to achieve communications interoperability. While the functions and features of Illinois' interoperability platform are designed to be accessible by its public safety practitioners, just as important are that the procedures and terminology follow the National Incident Management System. In addition to complying with NIMS, the very concepts of promoting interoperability on a statewide level, ensuring recognized incident management practices, and working towards improved domestic preparedness are the goals of the National Response Framework (NRF) and the NECP. The State of Illinois is enhancing incident planning and response by enabling communications between the local, state, and federal governments' emergency responders as well as non-governmental organizations, all of whom are working towards the national goal of improving protection for our citizens and emergency responders.

As previously discussed in this plan, the SIEC has final governing authority over standard operating procedures for state-level communications interoperability in Illinois. Numerous branches of state government, local entities, and statewide organizations have discipline-specific responsibility for the development of communications and interoperability policies and procedures known as Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans, or TICPs. The TICPs articulate how the various responders will communicate in a pre-planned manner, with adjustments being made as needed by the COML. The development of these SOPs and TICPs includes wide-ranging participation of first responders through state policymakers. The genesis of many communications interoperability SOPs begins at the grassroots level.

The developed SOPs are reviewed for compliance with NIMS requirements by IEMA while the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the SOPs are compliant with Illinois' SCIP. The SIEC guides the development of the SOPs and is responsible for maintaining a database of SOPs for reference as needed.

The following illustration visually depicts Illinois' standard operating procedures algorithm:



### **Assessment of Current Procedures that Support Interoperability**

Illinois is a national leader in interoperable communications at the first responder level. Statewide interoperable communications plans have existed for most public safety disciplines for decades. The following information identifies existing communications interoperability SOPs.

#### ***Law Enforcement***

SOPs exist in Illinois to coordinate law enforcement interoperability among local, county, and state law enforcement agencies. These SOPs include coordination of the ISPERN frequency and gateways between ISPERN and the state's interoperability platform. ILEAS has also developed detailed SOPs for response, command, and control of law enforcement assets responding to mutual aid events.

#### ***Fire Service***

MABAS has developed extensive SOPs for the coordination of fire service assets within Illinois. These SOPs include statewide dispatch and tactical channels for use by all fire departments within both Illinois and Wisconsin. MABAS has also developed SOPs for the use of both the STARCOM 21 and EMnet interoperability platforms for coordination of fire service assets statewide. DHS has recognized MABAS, which also coordinates the response of hazardous materials and technical rescue teams statewide, as a model for mutual aid best practices.

### ***Emergency Medical Services***

In Illinois, emergency medical services are primarily coordinated by the state's fire service organizations. As such, most of the MABAS fire service communications interoperability SOPs extend to and include emergency medical services operations. In addition to the SOPs maintained by MABAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health develops interoperable communications plans for hospital-to-hospital as well as EMS-to-hospital communications.

### ***Emergency Management***

The Illinois Emergency Services Management Agency (IESMA) is the coordinating group of state, county, and local emergency management personnel. Current procedures for communications interoperability in the emergency management arena are being identified and formalized.

### ***Inter-Discipline Coordination***

Illinois identified the need for inter-discipline public safety communications interoperability in the early 1980s. The IREACH Governing Board was established by numerous state emergency response organizations under the leadership of Illinois APCO. IREACH has developed SOPs for the operation of the Illinois statewide inter-disciplinary calling and coordination channel. Many aspects of state and local government coordinated response fall under the umbrella of the IREACH network, including law enforcement, fire, EMS, public works, public health, public works, emergency management, and the Northern Illinois Metra commuter rail system.

### **Process to Develop, Manage, and Communicate SOPs**

Responsibility for drafting communications interoperability SOPs rests with the following agencies or organizations.

- The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is responsible for coordinating emergency management response within Illinois. IEMA drafts SOPs to coordinate statewide distribution of emergency management information via EMnet, NAWAS, HF frequencies, and IEMA talk groups on STARCOM 21.
- The Illinois State Police is responsible for operational oversight of the STARCOM 21 radio network. Illinois statutes require the establishment of an Oversight Committee comprised of state and local users of the STARCOM 21 network. This committee assists the ISP with the development of SOPs.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health is responsible for the development of rules and regulations that govern communications for pre-hospital emergency medical services. The IDPH also develops communications plans for coordination of city and county public health organizations throughout the state.

- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) fills several critical roles in emergency and disaster response which include the maintenance of Illinois' network of state and interstate highways. IDOT is also tasked with numerous duties during disaster response. IDOT is responsible for drafting interoperable communications plans to facilitate communications between IDOT assets and other state and/or local public works agencies.
- The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System develops SOPs that govern response and communications for Illinois' 1,200 local fire departments. MABAS has developed extensive SOPs that govern local, regional, and statewide response communications as well as incident tactical communications for fire and emergency medical responses.
- The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System develops SOPs that govern law enforcement communications interoperability on the local, regional, and statewide levels through an organizational communications working group. More than 90 percent of Illinois' county and municipal officers are members of ILEAS.
- The Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network Governing Board develops SOPs for the use of the ISPERN radio frequency as well as cross band patches and gateways for the statewide law enforcement mutual aid and coordination channel.
- The Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel Governing Board develops SOPs for the installation and use of the IREACH radio frequency. IREACH provides a common interoperability channel for all disciplines of public safety response in Illinois.

The SIEC formalizes the schedule for the review and revision of SOPs developed by these organizations. The SOPs undergo a formal review annually; more frequent modifications are made as issues emerge. As part of the SOP review and revision, the developing organization(s) incorporate lessons learned from actual events and exercises, after action reports, and improvement plans. In compliance with Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines strictly adhered to by the State of Illinois, all exercises in Illinois supported with DHS grant funds are required to incorporate an objective that addresses a minimum of one statewide interoperability SOP. IEMA is responsible for developing Illinois' overarching SOPs.

Each of the organizations listed above are responsible for sharing information, both vertically and horizontally, regarding policies and procedures developed to support Illinois' SCIP. These organizations are continuing to utilize internal communications work groups, comprised of subject matter experts from their representative jurisdictions, to identify and review interoperability issues associated with their

discipline. Mechanisms used by these organizations to educate the public safety agencies they represent on the use of these SOPs include:

- Sharing the SOPs on the organization's website;
- Conducting information sessions at the organization's conferences and workshops;
- Incorporating the SOPs in organizational training and education sessions; and
- Utilizing SOPs during sponsored functional, table-top, and full-scale exercises.

Additionally, IEMA is conducting regional training and education sessions on the SOPs to ensure a universal knowledge, understanding, and application of the common operating instructions. Through these regional forums, IEMA communicates with state and local public safety agencies the current SOPs, identifies and assesses communications interoperability issues and concerns, and receives feedback from public safety practitioners whose use of the SOPs empowers them to provide a hands-on perspective of their effectiveness, practicality, and applicability to real-world events.

Broad support of the TICPs will result in interoperable communications becoming a consistent part of response and recovery operations. Familiarity of first responders with TICP protocols through day-to-day operations, consistent training, and practice will make this possible. Public safety leaders will need to mandate that inter-departmental mutual aid protocols and similar agreements are current, workable, and are utilized routinely by first responders.

Successful implementation of TICP principles and resources is dependent on the leaders' commitment to regularly planned field exercises designed to practice, test, and emphasize the use of multiple, interoperability resources in planned special events and unplanned incident scenarios. By routinely using good interoperable communications practices, Illinois anticipates improved public safety responses to large-scale events and disasters, including communications among local, state, and federal public safety agencies.

The use of peer counseling, or inter-discipline training/conference, has proven to be an effective tool to achieve compliance with interoperability SOPs. Statewide organizations work with member agencies to improve compliance with policies and procedures through training, information exchanges, and other regular preparedness activities. The MABAS and ILEAS memorandums of understanding with IEMA specifically require member agencies to comply with all policies and procedures adopted by the mutual aid organizations.

The DHS Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program (PSIC) funding, administered in Illinois, are linked with state and federal interoperability standards.

### **NIMS-Compliant SOPs**

Grant guidance for DHS-funded programs typically includes MOUs that specify minimum levels of training and compliance with NIMS standards. Compliance is ensured through staff assistance visits and records audits. In Illinois, the following general communications policy and procedure exists for all SOPs:

- National Incident Management System – Use of an Incident Command System compliant with NIMS is recommended for use of any interoperability resource, i.e., having a Communications Unit Leader involved in the event issuing a communications plan.
- Plain Language – All communications will be in plain language. Radio codes, acronyms, and abbreviations are to be avoided as they may cause confusion between agencies. Requests for assistance or backup should clarify the reason for the request.

#### **4.4 Training and Exercises Plan**

Acknowledging that interoperability is an ongoing process in Illinois – available for use on a daily basis rather than being reserved for special occasions – public safety employees routinely engage in its use as circumstances dictate.

### **Process for Management of Cross-Disciplinary Training and Exercises**

IEMA oversees the development and execution of exercises designed to validate participants' disaster response capabilities. Communications interoperability is a standard, embedded component of these exercises; participants' knowledge of interoperability procedures is gauged as one of the critical objectives of the exercises. IEMA's exercise program provides first responders, volunteers, elected officials, private industry, and others a chance to implement those skills necessary to protect lives and property during a simulated catastrophic event. This is accomplished by providing all-hazards training that emphasizes the importance of prevention, protection, response, and recovery.

The goal of the exercise program is to improve the overall readiness and targeted capabilities of emergency response by validating training, emergency plans, and procedures to reveal strengths and weaknesses, demonstrate operational capabilities, and prepare personnel for real world events. This readiness is implemented through a building block process of seminars, workshops, tabletops, games, drills, and functional and full-scale exercises which are defined by the HSEEP.

Within each discipline, local jurisdictions/agencies/departments are primarily responsible for the training of their personnel. Classes may be conducted in a



formal structure, i.e., a training academy or institute, or in a less formal, on-the-job setting. In both cases, however, personnel receive instruction on the use of radio communications, including specific information on interoperability capabilities and when and how to use those features. Although each jurisdiction assumes primary responsibility for maintaining the official training records of their respective personnel, IEMA maintains a database of personnel who successfully complete any of its training programs.

### **Process for Offering Training and Exercises**

The IEMA website ([www.state.il.us/iema](http://www.state.il.us/iema)) provides detailed course descriptions, training dates, and registration information for classes offered at no cost to public safety practitioners at the local, state, and federal levels. Classes are held at selected locations throughout the state and are taught by subject matter experts/certified instructors under the direction of IEMA. The IEMA website also contains links to the Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study Program sponsored by FEMA. This information can be accessed directly at <http://training.fema.gov/IS>.

IEMA established a "State of Illinois Exercise Policy Standards" which stipulates that whenever federal or state funds are used for training exercises in the State of Illinois, the following requirements must be met to receive funding:

1. Scheduling of exercises must be coordinated and approved by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency/Bureau of Operations to ensure personnel and/or resources are not otherwise required for a real world event or other exercise/training activities.
2. All exercises must be planned and conducted consistent with the State of Illinois Exercise and Evaluation Manual which is, in turn, consistent with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Manual, National Incident Management System, Illinois Emergency Operations Plan, Illinois Disaster Management System, and applicable Homeland Security Presidential Directives. All exercises in Illinois supported with U. S. Department of Homeland Security grant funds are required to incorporate an objective that addresses a minimum of one statewide interoperability SOP described in Section 4.3.
3. Participant lists are developed dependent on the scope and objectives determined for the exercise and in compliance with the State of Illinois Exercise and Evaluation Manual and policies. Invitations to state and federal agencies/representatives must be coordinated through the IEMA Bureau of Operations. All key agencies that will be involved in any element of a real world event must be notified of and invited to the planning and exercise process.
4. All exercises must include a debrief and written After Action Report (AAR) and Corrective Action/Improvement Plan consistent with the guidelines outlined in the State of Illinois Exercise and Evaluation Manual. A copy of this report must be

submitted to the IEMA Exercise Program Manager within 30 days of the exercise. Extensions of the AAR submittal must be worked through the IEMA Exercise Program Manager who will ensure consistency with applicable requirements and, once approved, file the written evaluation with the appropriate organization(s).

5. IEMA and the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC) must be notified prior to the commencement of any functional or full-scale exercises to ensure exercise play is not mistaken for real world events.
6. To ensure compliance with this policy, the IEMA Exercise Training Officer (217.557.4827) serves as the point of contact for the above procedures.

### **Training Curriculum on the Illinois Interoperability Strategy**

The STARCOM 21 Oversight Committee, in partnership with the SIEC and the ISP, developed a training plan on the Illinois interoperability platform that consists of a series of multi-jurisdiction training events.

In addition to training programs described on its website, IEMA provides training which focuses specifically on the availability and use of the suite of communications equipment contained in the ITECS vehicles. This course is provided annually and focuses on two critical areas: operations and technical issues.

#### **4.5 Usage**

Illinois is keenly aware of the value the routine, day-to-day usage of its interoperability networks brings to public safety practitioners whose level of familiarity with the systems, networks, and equipment encourages consistency of application and standardization of response. The following plan, which doubles as a standard operating procedure, has been developed to formally delineate when and how interoperable communications should be used by Illinois' first responder community. The implementation is based on a five-tiered scale as outlined by DHS.

- **Level 5 – Routine Local Event**
  - Type 5 interoperability includes daily operational frequencies and systems enhanced with normal, pre-identified mutual aid channels.
- **Level 4 – Significant Local Event**
  - Type 4 interoperability includes daily operational frequencies and systems enhanced with mutual aid channels and limited numbers of channels from the National Interoperability Pool.
- **Level 3 – Significant Regional Event**
  - Type 3 interoperability enhances local and mutual aid capabilities with front line pre-deployed state assets including ITECS and Unified Command Centers. Activation of these assets requires a gubernatorial declaration of disaster.

- **Level 2 – Significant State WMD or Disaster Event**
  - Type 2 interoperability adds enhanced specialized state assets, including those provided by various state agencies and the Illinois National Guard to those already deployed under Levels 3 through 5.
- **Level 1 – Significant National Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) or Catastrophic Disaster Event**
  - Type 1 interoperability adds specialized federal communications assets to those already deployed under lower event levels. These assets may be provided by a host of federal agencies and managed by the National Communications System (NCS). Integration of federal, state, and local communications systems is required.

Illinois' five-tiered scale is illustrated below.



Management of this plan is accomplished using the Incident Command System or Unified Command System, depending on the level of activation. During a Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 event, the appointment of an Incident Communications Officer and the development of an Incident Communications Plan (ICS-205) are required. During a Level 4 event, the use of an ICS-205 is required; at Level 5, use of the ICS-205 is highly recommended.

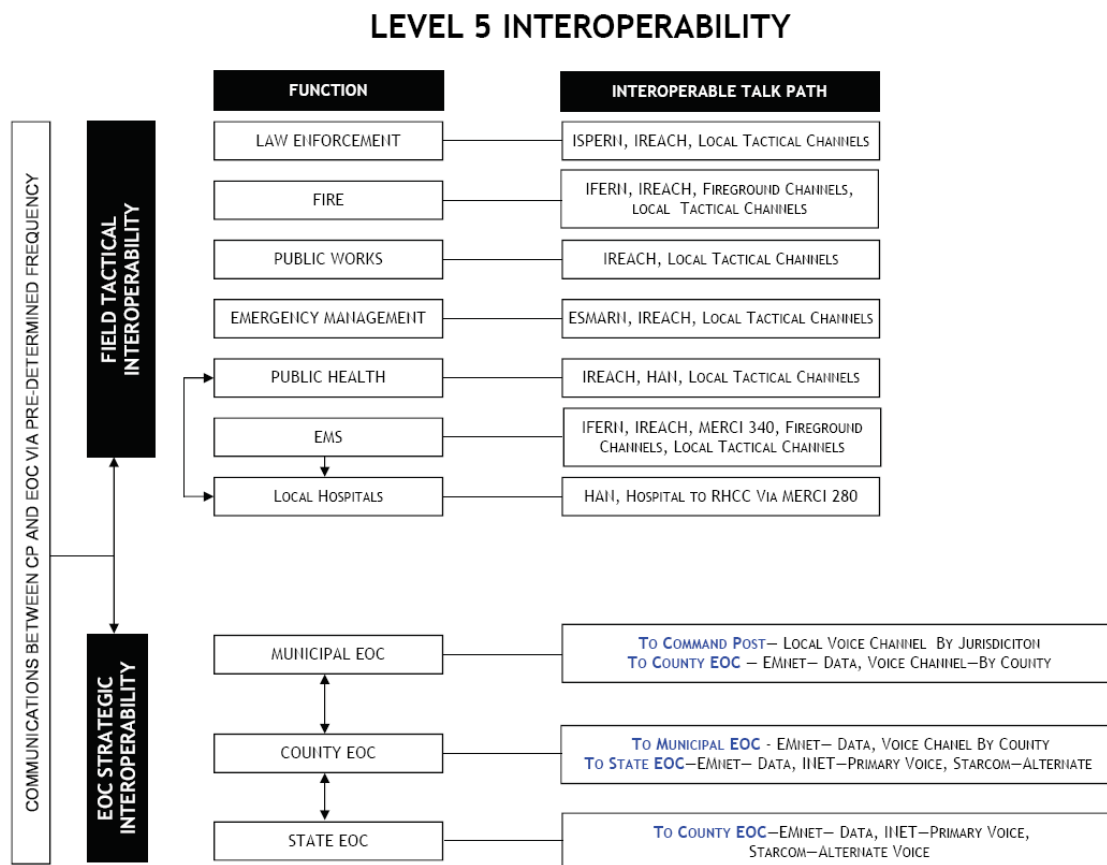
Applicable to all levels of the strategy, the following priorities will be followed in using the interoperable channels listed in this plan:

- Priority 1      Declared disaster or extreme emergency operation requiring mutual aid and interagency communications.
- Priority 2      Emergency or urgent operation involving imminent danger to life or property.
- Priority 3      Special event control, generally of a preplanned nature (including task force operations).
- Priority 4      Joint multi-agency, multi-disciplined training evolutions.

The strategy is outlined beginning on the next page.

## LEVEL 5 INTEROPERABILITY

**SCOPE:** Used in day-to-day operations with no special coordination mechanism. First responders select interoperable mutual aid channels based on immediate need and established localized protocols.



## **OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE**

### Field Tactical Interoperability

- First response agencies will utilize front line interoperable channels as outlined. Various VHF tactical channels, including IFERN, IREACH, ISPERN, MERCI, and fireground, will be utilized in addition to other locally developed interoperable channels.
- Field first response agencies will maintain communications with local dispatch centers and/or the local EOC utilizing normal emergency first response channels used on a daily basis.

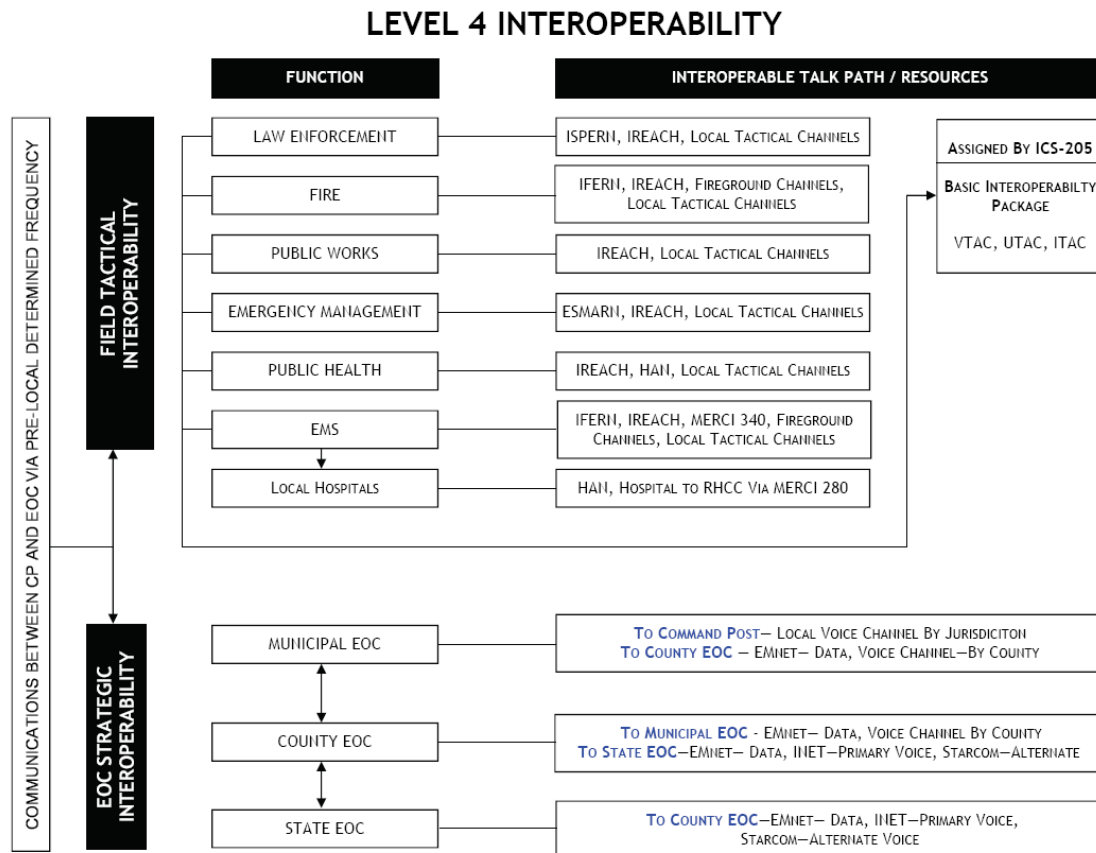
- Field EMS communications with local and regional hospitals will utilize MERCI 340 as well as various telemetry and wireless communications systems.
- EMS communications between Regional Hospital Coordination Center (RHCC) hospitals and local hospitals will utilize the MERCI 280 channel utilizing DTCSS code 156.

#### EOC Strategic Interoperability

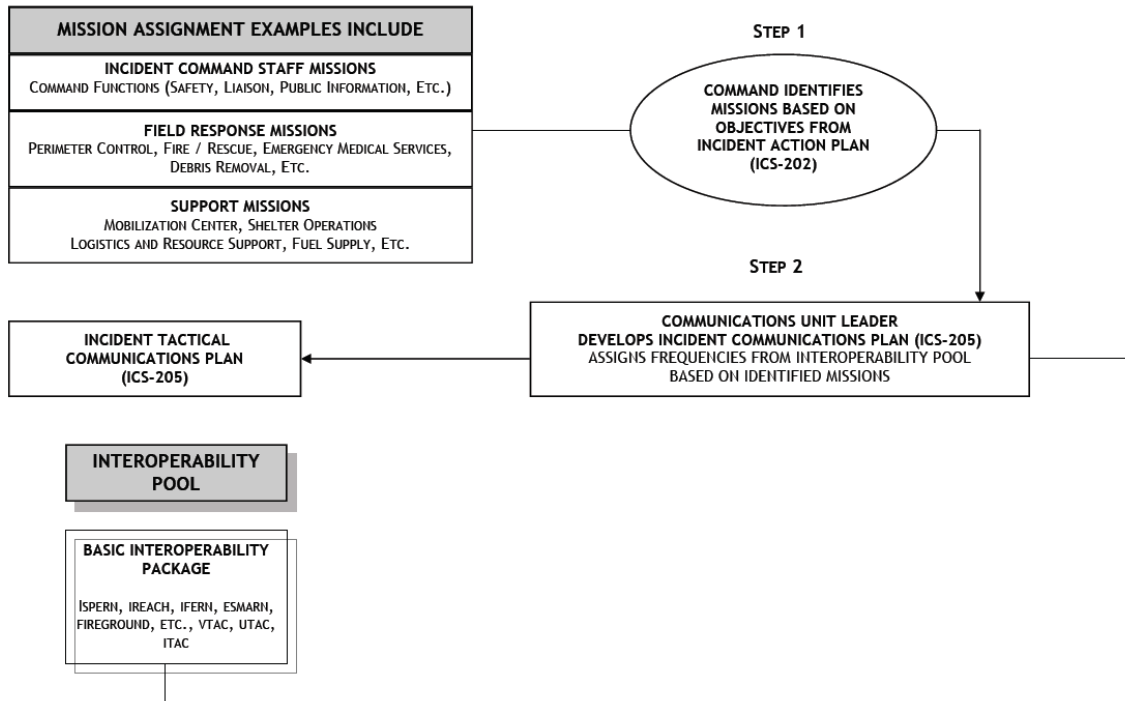
- Communications between the municipal government and the county government will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate – Locally established two-way radio system.
- Communications between the county government and the state EOC will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate 1 – I-Net.
  - Alternate 2 – STARCOM 21 (SEOC talk group).

## LEVEL 4 INTEROPERABILITY

**SCOPE:** Used to coordinate a localized mutual aid response. Responders utilize available local mutual aid interoperable channels. These channels may be enhanced by basic interoperable communications immediately available to local responders.



## LEVEL 4 INTEROPERABILITY



## OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

### Field Tactical Interoperability

- First response agencies will utilize front line interoperable channels as outlined. Various VHF tactical channels, including IFERN, IREACH, ISPERN, MERCI, and fireground, will be utilized in addition to other locally developed interoperable channels.
- Front line interoperable channels will be supplemented by selected frequencies from the NIP, including:
  - V-TAC.
  - U-TAC.
  - I-TAC.
- Assignment of front line interoperable channels, supported by NIP channels, will be based on tactical missions. Frequencies will be assigned to specific missions for each operational period. Frequency assignments will be made with special attention to adjacent channel usage to prevent interference. The



development of a Tactical Communications Plan (ICS-205) is required under this level of operation.

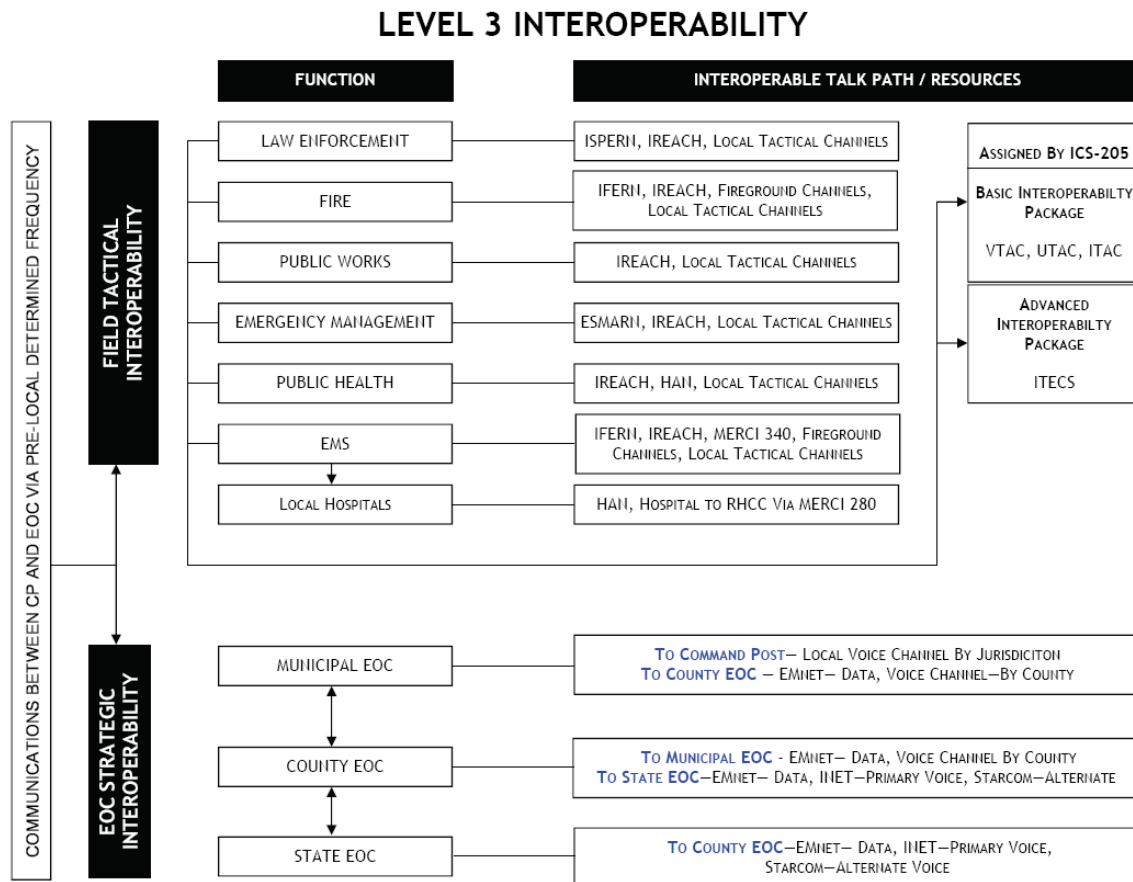
- Field first response agencies will maintain communications with local dispatch centers and/or the local EOC utilizing normal emergency first response channels used on a daily basis.
- Field EMS communications with local and regional hospitals will utilize MERCI 340 as well as various telemetry and wireless communications systems.
- EMS communications between RHCC hospitals and local hospitals will utilize the MERCI 280 channel utilizing DTCSS code 156.

#### EOC Strategic Interoperability

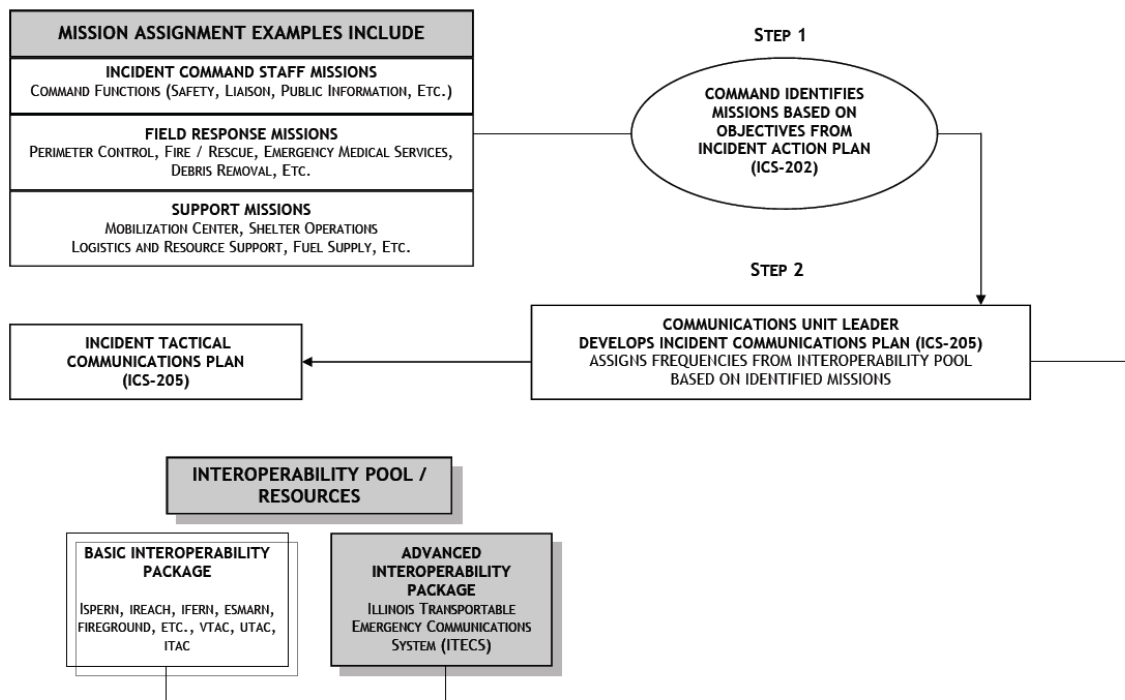
- Communications between the municipal government and the county government will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate – Locally established two-way radio system.
- Communications between the county government and the state EOC will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate 1 – I-Net.
  - Alternate 2 – STARCOM 21 (SEOC talk group).

## LEVEL 3 INTEROPERABILITY

**SCOPE:** Used to coordinate a significant regional event where additional frequencies and/or system connections need to be made. This level requires the development of a formal Incident Communications Plan (ICS-205) to support the missions assigned by the Incident Commander.



## LEVEL 3 INTEROPERABILITY



## OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

### Command and Control

- Operations under this level will be initiated as the result of a request from a county to the state indicating that an event overwhelms local resources, necessitating state resources to manage the event. State response assets are deployed through the SEOC and are managed by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.
- Establishment of Unified Command will be required under this level of event.
- Unified Command will appoint a Communications Group Leader as part of the Logistics Section who will be responsible for the development of an Incident Tactical Communications Plan (ICS-205), Radio Resources Worksheet (ICS-216), and Radio Frequency Assignment Worksheet (ICS-217). The Communications Group Leader will be responsible for the management of all communications personnel and equipment at the incident. The Communications Group Leader will have total access to, and control over, the full spectrum of operational and mutual aid channels to ensure the most

efficient and effective communications system is developed to support the assigned missions.

#### Field Tactical Interoperability

- Assignment of front line interoperable channels, supported by NIP channels, will be based on tactical and strategic missions. Frequencies will be assigned to specific missions for each operational period. Frequency assignments will be made with special attention to adjacent channel usage to prevent interference. The development of a Tactical Communications Plan (ICS-205) is required under this level of operation.
- Communications with responding agencies will be maintained via STARCOM 21 until the resource has arrived in the mobilization center. Following arrival at the mobilization center, mutual aid agencies will be directed to the appropriate tactical operations channel.
- While enroute, communications with mutual aid agencies responding within Illinois will be maintained in the following manner:
  - Fire – Fire service resources will maintain communications with a MABAS Dispatch Center via the MABAS talk group on the STARCOM 21 radio system.
  - Law Enforcement – Law enforcement resources will maintain communications with an ILEAS Dispatch Center via the ILEAS talk group on the STARCOM 21 radio system.
  - Emergency Management – Emergency management resources will maintain communications with the IEMMAS Dispatch Center (DuPage County EOC) via the IESMA talk group on the STARCOM 21 radio system.
  - Mobilization Center – The IREACH radio system will be used as the common talk-in frequency for all agencies arriving at the mobilization center.

Following arrival at the mobilization center, mutual aid agencies will be directed to the appropriate tactical operations channel(s) for use when assigned to operational missions within the disaster area.

- Field first response agencies will maintain communications with local dispatch centers and/or the local EOC utilizing normal emergency first response channels used on a daily basis.

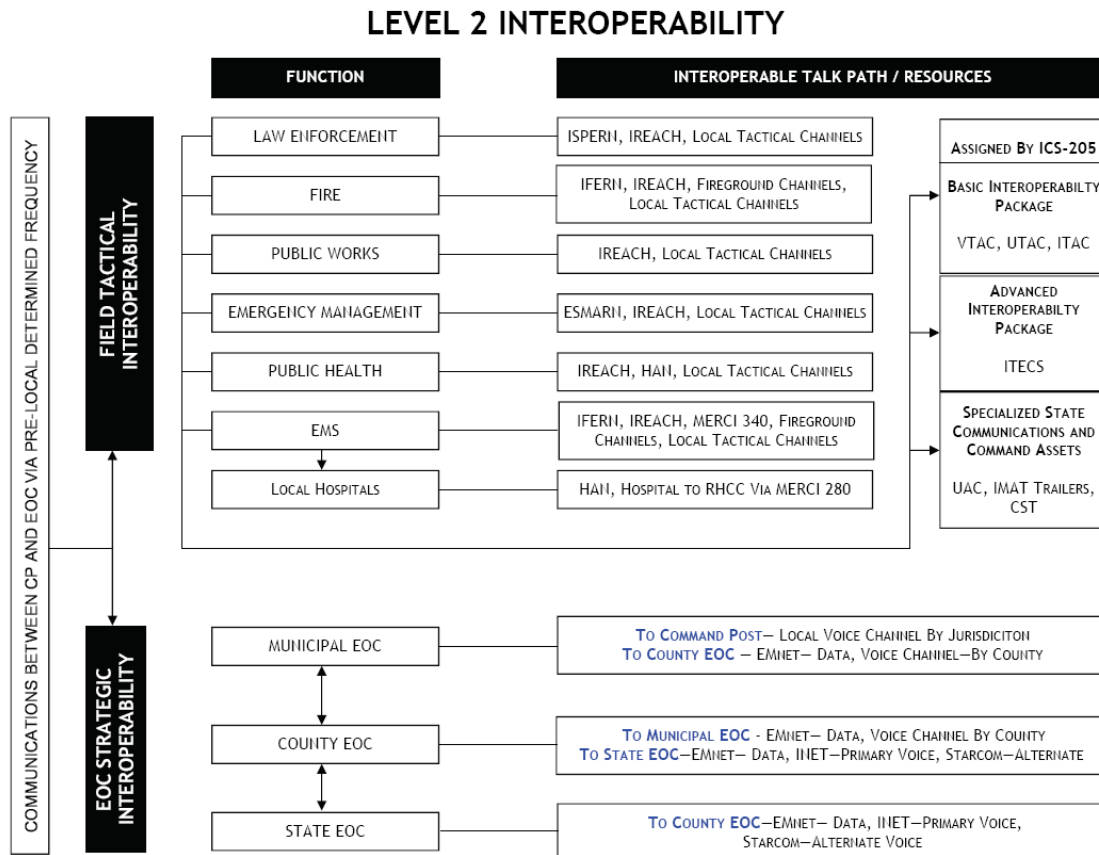
- Field EMS communications with local and regional hospitals will utilize MERCI 340 as well as various telemetry and wireless communications systems.
- EMS communications between RHCC hospitals and local hospitals will utilize the MERCI 280 channel utilizing DTCSS code 156.

#### EOC Strategic Interoperability

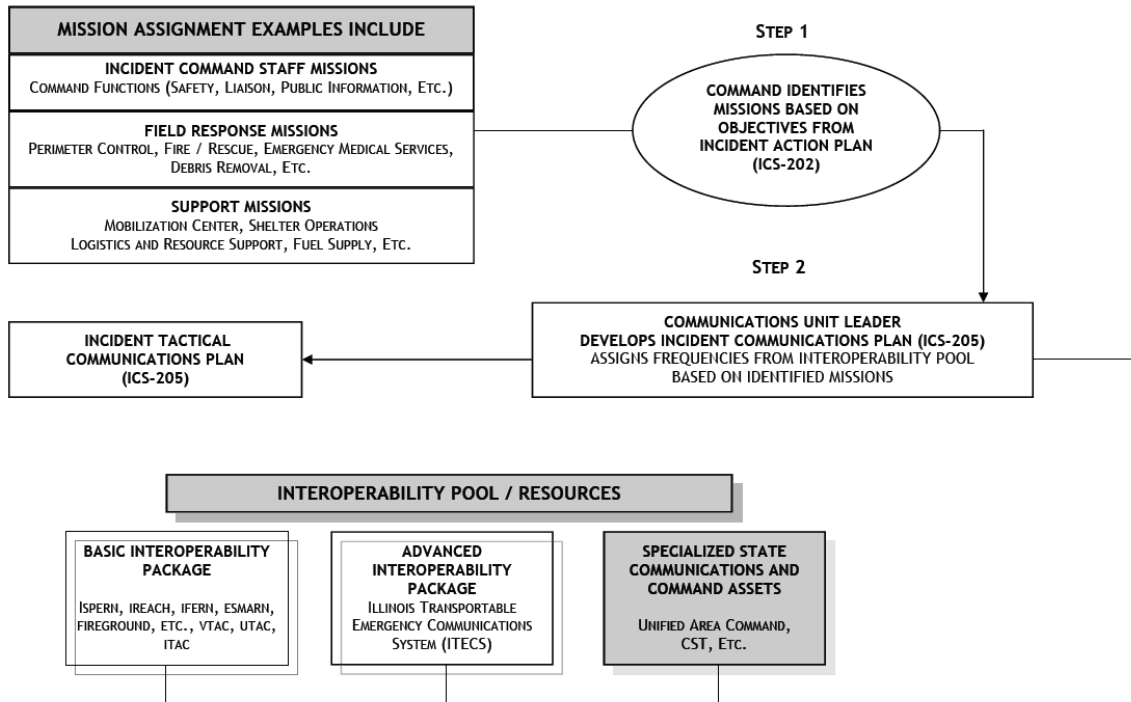
- Communications between the municipal government and the county government will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate – Locally established two-way radio system.
- Communications between the county government and the state EOC will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate 1 – I-Net.
  - Alternate 2 – STARCOM 21 (SEOC talk group).

## LEVEL 2 INTEROPERABILITY

**SCOPE:** Used to coordinate a significant state WMD or disaster event where state and mutual aid resources are involved. A Level 2 interoperability event will dictate the need for a significant number of frequencies or specialty communications systems.



## LEVEL 2 INTEROPERABILITY



## OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

### Command and Control

- Operations under this level will be initiated as the result of a request from a county to the state indicating that an event overwhelms local resources, necessitating state resources to manage the event. State response assets are deployed through the SEOC and are managed by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.
- Establishment of Unified Command will be required under this level of event.
- Unified Command will appoint a Communications Group Leader as part of the Logistics Section who will be responsible for the development of an Incident Tactical Communications Plan (ICS-205), Radio Resources Worksheet (ICS-216), and Radio Frequency Assignment Worksheet (ICS-217). The Communications Group Leader will be responsible for the management of all communications personnel and equipment at the incident. The Communications Group Leader will have total access to, and control over, the full spectrum of operational and mutual aid channels to ensure the most

efficient and effective communications system is developed to support the assigned missions.

### Field Tactical Interoperability

- Assignment of front line interoperable channels, supported by NIP channels, will be based on tactical and strategic missions. Frequencies will be assigned to specific missions for each operational period. Frequency assignments will be made with special attention to adjacent channel usage to prevent interference. The development of a Tactical Communications Plan (ICS-205) is required under this level of operation.
- Communications with responding agencies will be maintained via STARCOM 21 until the resource has arrived in the mobilization center. Following arrival at the mobilization center, mutual aid agencies will be directed to the appropriate tactical operations channel.
- While enroute, communications with mutual aid agencies responding within Illinois will be maintained in the following manner:
  - Fire – Fire service resources will maintain communications with a MABAS Dispatch Center via the MABAS talk group on the STARCOM 21 radio system.
  - Law Enforcement – Law enforcement resources will maintain communications with an ILEAS Dispatch Center via the ILEAS talk group on the STARCOM 21 radio system.
  - Emergency Management – Emergency management resources will maintain communications with the IEMMAS Dispatch Center (DuPage County EOC) via the IESMA talk group on the STARCOM 21 radio system.
  - Mobilization Center – The IREACH radio system will be used as the common talk-in frequency for all agencies arriving at the mobilization center.

Following arrival at the mobilization center, mutual aid agencies will be directed to the appropriate tactical operations channel(s) for use when assigned to operational missions within the disaster area.

- Field first response agencies will maintain communications with local dispatch centers and/or the local EOC utilizing normal emergency first response channels used on a daily basis.



- Field EMS communications with local and regional hospitals will utilize MERCI 340 as well as various telemetry and wireless communications systems.
- EMS communications between RHCC hospitals and local hospitals will utilize the MERCI 280 channel utilizing DTCSS code 156.

#### EOC Strategic Interoperability

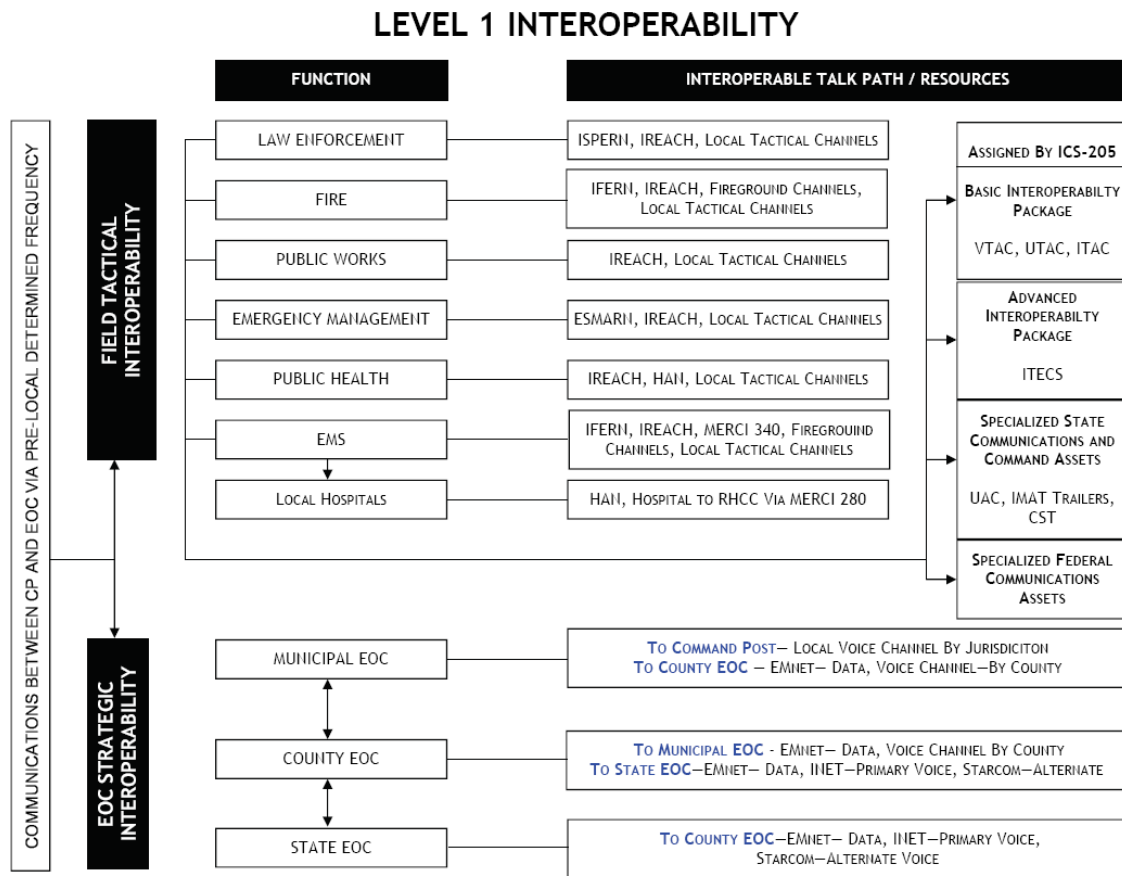
- Communications between the municipal government and the county government will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate – Locally established two-way radio system.
- Communications between the county government and the state EOC will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate 1 – I-Net.
  - Alternate 2 – Starcom (SEOC talk group).

#### State Government Support and Interoperability

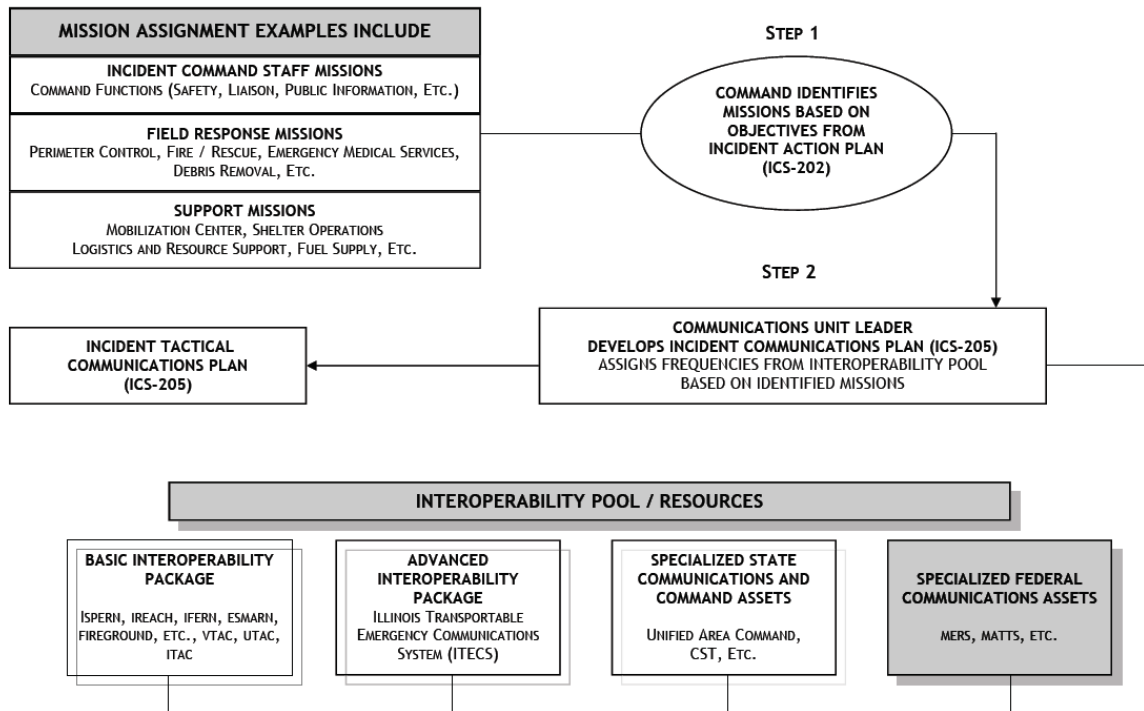
- The state EOC will assign state government interoperability channels to support strategic, operational, and tactical communications. Frequencies will be assigned to specific missions of state government for each operational period. The basic interoperability channels available to support these missions include ISPERN, IREACH, IFERN, and ESMARN as well as other strategic operational and tactical channels including V-TAC, U-TAC, and I-TAC.
- State agencies are tasked with determining what primary and alternate means of communication are available to execute missions from the SEOC, along with the level at which each communications system will be deployed.
- Specialized state communications assets that will be deployed by the state Unified Area Command (UAC) through the SEOC to support the event include up to 13 Unified Command vans and five Incident Management Assistance Team trailers. Advanced interoperability packages available for deployment by the SEOC include the strategic technology reserves housed in the ITECS trailers.

## LEVEL 1 INTEROPERABILITY

**Scope:** Used to coordinate a significant national WMD or catastrophic disaster event where state and federal - as well as mutual aid resources - are involved. A Level 1 interoperability event will dictate the need for a significant number of frequencies or specialty communications systems.



## LEVEL 1 INTEROPERABILITY



## OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

### Command and Control

- Operations under this level will be initiated as the result of a request from a county to the state indicating that an event overwhelms local resources, necessitating state resources to manage the event. State response assets are deployed through the SEOC and are managed by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.
- Establishment of Unified Command will be required under this level of event.
- Unified Command will appoint a Communications Group Leader as part of the Logistics Section who will be responsible for the development of an Incident Tactical Communications Plan (ICS-205), Radio Resources Worksheet (ICS-216), and Radio Frequency Assignment Worksheet (ICS-217). The Communications Group Leader will be responsible for the management of all communications personnel and equipment at the incident. The Communications Group Leader will have total access to, and control over, the full spectrum of operational and mutual aid channels to ensure the most

efficient and effective communications system is developed to support the assigned missions.

#### Field Tactical Interoperability

- Assignment of front line interoperable channels, supported by NIP channels, will be based on tactical and strategic missions. Frequencies will be assigned to specific missions for each operational period. Frequency assignments will be made with special attention to adjacent channel usage to prevent interference. The development of a Tactical Communications Plan (ICS-205) is required under this level of operation.
- Communications with responding agencies will be maintained via STARCOM 21 until the resource has arrived in the mobilization center. Following arrival at the mobilization center, mutual aid agencies may be directed to the alternative tactical operations channel.
- While enroute, communications with mutual aid agencies responding within Illinois will be maintained in the following manner:
  - Fire – Fire service resources will maintain communications with a MABAS Dispatch Center via the MABAS talk group on the STARCOM 21 radio system.
  - Law Enforcement – Law enforcement resources will maintain communications with an ILEAS Dispatch Center via the ILEAS talk group on the STARCOM 21 radio system.
  - Emergency Management – Emergency management resources will maintain communications with the IEMMAS Dispatch Center (DuPage County Emergency Operations Center) via the Illinois IESMA talk group on the STARCOM 21 radio system.
  - Mobilization Center – The IREACH radio system or designated STARCOM 21 talk group will be used as the common talk-in frequency for all agencies arriving at the mobilization center.

Following arrival at the mobilization center, mutual aid agencies will be directed to the appropriate tactical operations channel(s) for use when assigned to operational missions within the disaster area.

- Field first response agencies will maintain communications with local dispatch centers and/or the local EOC utilizing normal emergency first response channels used on a daily basis.

- Field EMS communications with local and regional hospitals will utilize MERCI 340 as well as various telemetry and wireless communications systems.
- EMS communications between RHCC hospitals and local hospitals will utilize the MERCI 280 channel utilizing DTCSS code 156.

#### EOC Strategic Interoperability

- Communications between the municipal government and the county government will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate – Locally established two-way radio system.
- Communications between the county government and the state EOC will utilize the following:
  - Primary – EMnet.
  - Alternate 1 – I-Net.
  - Alternate 2 – STARCOM 21 (SEOC talk group).

#### State Government Support and Interoperability

- The state EOC will assign state government interoperability channels to support strategic, operational, and tactical communications. Interoperable channels will be assigned to specific missions of state government for each operational period.
- State agencies are tasked with determining what primary and alternate means of communication are available to execute missions from the SEOC, along with the level at which each communications system will be deployed.
- Specialized state communications assets that will be deployed by the state Unified Area Command (UAC) through the SEOC to support the event include up to 13 Unified Command vans and five Incident Management Assistance Team trailers. Advanced interoperability packages available for deployment by the SEOC include the strategic technology reserves housed in the ITECS trailers.

## **State Emergency Operations Center**

When local governments determine that available resources are not adequate to respond to an emergency, they may request assistance through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Requests for state assistance may be made through the IEMA 24-hour-a-day emergency telephone number in Springfield (800.782.7860) or through the IEMA Regional Coordinators. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is the strategic coordination and management facility for all state response activities for a given emergency.

Activation of the SEOC follows a gubernatorial proclamation of an emergency. The SEOC is administered by IEMA under the guidelines and tenets set forth in the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan, the Illinois Disaster Management System, and the National Incident Management System.

The SEOC includes staff from IEMA, the primary agencies, and other support agencies as required. They provide strategic and operational coordination for SEOC response activities as well as for response activities in the field. Each activated primary agency assigns representatives to the SEOC to coordinate state response to the disaster or emergency.

The SEOC serves as the central source of information on the status of state response activities and helps disseminate information to the Governor, the General Assembly and Congress, the public, and the media. The SEOC liaisons also provide resource coordination to the UAC and field operations.

### **Primary Agencies**

American Red Cross  
Illinois Attorney General's Office  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
Illinois Department of Agriculture  
Illinois Department of Central Management Services  
Illinois Department of Corrections  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
Illinois Department of Transportation — Aeronautics  
Illinois Department of Transportation - Highways  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Illinois National Guard  
Illinois State Police  
National Weather Service  
Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Secretary of State Police Department

For the purposes of the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan, the American Red Cross is deemed to be a state agency and operates under the Illinois Disaster Management System. The American Red Cross, however, maintains administrative, financial, and operational control over its activities and direction over its own personnel.

State agency representatives work directly with their local or agency counterparts to determine the assistance needed by the affected area(s). Requests for assistance are channeled from local governments to the UAC or the SEOC for action. At the UAC or SEOC, requests are verified and the appropriate state agencies are tasked to provide the requested assistance, if possible. IEMA coordinates directly with its federal agency counterpart to request federal assistance if state resources are not adequate.

All requests for Illinois National Guard (ING) support are made through IEMA. During day-to-day operations, ING personnel and tactical equipment are in federal - not state - status and are not available for emergency response except in extreme circumstances. IEMA, in consultation with other state agencies, determines if the ING is the best state resource for the emergency response and makes a recommendation to the Governor. Only Illinois' Governor can order the ING to active duty. When that activation occurs, ING assets become available to IEMA for response missions as required, and the state assumes payroll, support, and subsistence costs for activated troops as well as reimbursement for the use of federal equipment during the period of disaster response.